

I claim:

1. A motorcycle seating unit comprising:

a seat including a seating surface having an essentially horizontal orientation and a front side having a height; and

5 a backrest assembly, including a support arm having a pivot end and a free end, and a back bar having an external surface, wherein said pivot end rotatably engages said seat, said free end engages said back bar, said backrest assembly has a first selective operational position characterized by an essentially vertical orientation, and said backrest assembly has a second selective operational position characterized by an essentially horizontal orientation with said back bar positioned adjacent said seating surface and adjoining said height of said front side of said seat such that said external surface of said back bar is essentially even with said height of said front side to expose an essentially smooth continuous transition between said back bar and said seat.

15 2. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 1, wherein said support arm is a first support arm, said pivot end is a first pivot end, and said free end is a first free end, said motorcycle seating unit further comprising a second support arm having a second pivot end and a second free end.

20 3. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 2, wherein said second pivot end rotatably engages said seat.

25 4. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 3, wherein said seat includes a first lateral side and a second lateral side, said first pivot end rotatably engages said seat at said first lateral side, and said second pivot end rotatably engages said seat at said second lateral side.

5. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 1, wherein said seat includes a first lateral side and a second lateral side and said pivot end rotatably engages said seat at said first or second lateral side.

6. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 1, wherein said free end rotatably

engages said back bar.

7. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 1, wherein said essentially vertical orientation of said backrest assembly has an angle of recline in a range from about 0° to 45° beyond true vertical.

5 8. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 1, wherein said essentially horizontal orientation of said seating surface has an arc to facilitate mounting said seat on an arcuate mounting surface.

9. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 1, wherein said external surface of said back bar comprises a front face, a rear face, a top face, and a bottom face, further  
10 wherein said bottom face adjoins said height of said front side of said seat such that said rear face at a junction of said bottom face is essentially even with said height of said front side.

10. A motorcycle seating unit comprising:

15 a seat including a seating surface having an essentially horizontal orientation and a front side having a height, a rear side opposite said front side, a first lateral side, and a second lateral side opposite said first lateral side; and

a backrest assembly, including a first lateral support arm having a first pivot end and a first free end, a second lateral support arm having a second pivot end and a second free end, and a back bar, wherein said first pivot end  
20 rotatably engages said seat, said first free end engages said back bar, said second pivot end rotatably engages said seat, said second free end engages said back bar, said backrest assembly has a first selective operational position characterized by an essentially vertical orientation, and said backrest assembly has a second selective operational position characterized by an essentially  
25 horizontal orientation with said first lateral support arm positioned adjacent said first lateral side and said second lateral support arm positioned adjacent said second lateral side.

11. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 10, wherein said first pivot end rotatably engages said seat at said first lateral side and said second pivot end rotatably

engages said seat at said second lateral side.

12. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 10, wherein said first pivot end rotatably engages said seat at said first lateral side proximal said rear side and said second pivot end rotatably engages said seat at said second lateral side proximal said rear side.

13. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 10, wherein said back bar has a first end and a second end, said first free end of said backrest assembly rotatably engages said first end of said back bar, and said second free end of said backrest assembly rotatably engages said second end of said back bar.

14. The motorcycle seating unit of claim 10, wherein said back bar has an external surface comprising a front face, a rear face, a top face, and a bottom face, further wherein said bottom face adjoins said height of said front side of said seat such that said rear face at a junction of said bottom face is essentially even with said height of said front side.

15. A tandem seat for a motorcycle comprising:  
a driver seat segment including a driver seating surface having an essentially horizontal orientation and a rear edge having a height;  
a passenger seat segment including a passenger seating surface having an essentially horizontal orientation and a front side having a height; and  
a backrest assembly, including a support arm having a pivot end and a free end, and a back bar having an external surface, wherein said pivot end rotatably engages said passenger seat segment, said free end engages said back bar, said backrest assembly has a first selective operational position characterized by an essentially vertical orientation, and said backrest assembly has a second selective operational position characterized by an essentially horizontal orientation with said back bar positioned adjacent said driver seating surface and said passenger seating surface and said back bar adjoining said height of said rear edge of said driver seat segment and said height of said front side of said passenger seat segment such that said external surface of said

back bar is essentially even with said height of said rear edge and said height of said front side to expose an essentially smooth continuous transition between said driver seat segment and said passenger seat segment.

5        16.    The tandem seat of claim 15, wherein said support arm is a first support arm, said pivot end is a first pivot end, and said free end is a first free end, said tandem seat further comprising a second support arm having a second pivot end and a second free end, wherein said second pivot end rotatably engages said passenger seat segment.

10       17.    The tandem seat of claim 16, wherein said passenger seat segment includes a first lateral side and a second lateral side, said first pivot end rotatably engages said passenger seat segment at said first lateral side, and said second pivot end rotatably engages said passenger seat segment at said second lateral side.

15       18.    The tandem seat of claim 15, wherein said essentially vertical orientation of said backrest assembly has an angle of recline in a range from about 0° to 45° beyond true vertical.

19.    The tandem seat of claim 15, wherein said essentially horizontal orientation of said passenger seating surface has an arc to facilitate mounting said passenger seat segment on an arcuate mounting surface.

20       20.    The tandem seat of claim 15, wherein said external surface of said back bar comprises a front face, a rear face, a top face, and a bottom face, further wherein said bottom face adjoins said height of said front side of said passenger seat segment such that said rear face at a junction of said bottom face is essentially even with said height of said front side and said top face adjoins said height of said rear edge of said driver seat segment such that said rear face at a junction of said top face is essentially  
25       even with said height of said rear edge.

21.    A tandem seat for a motorcycle comprising:

         a driver seat segment including a rear edge and a driver seating surface having an essentially horizontal orientation;

         a back bar receptacle segment, including a first lateral wall, a second

lateral wall, a top surface, and a back bar receptacle depressed below said top surface and having a boundary comprising said first and second lateral walls and said rear edge of said driver seat segment;

5 a passenger seat segment, including a front side, a passenger seating surface having an essentially horizontal orientation, and a support arm receptacle depressed below said passenger seating surface, wherein said boundary of said back bar receptacle further comprises said front side of said passenger seat segment; and

10 a backrest assembly, including a support arm having a pivot end, a free end, and a support arm external surface and a back bar having a back bar external surface, wherein said pivot end rotatably engages said passenger seat segment, said free end engages said back bar, said backrest assembly has a first selective operational position characterized by an essentially vertical orientation, and said backrest assembly has a second selective operational  
15 position characterized by an essentially horizontal orientation with said back bar positioned in said back bar receptacle such that said back bar external surface is essentially even with said top surface of said back bar receptacle segment and with said support arm positioned in said support arm receptacle such that said support arm external surface is essentially even with said passenger  
20 seating surface to expose an essentially smooth continuous transition between said driver seat segment and said passenger seat segment.

22. The tandem seat of claim 21, wherein said support arm centrally engages said back bar.

23. The tandem seat of claim 21, wherein said back bar has a back bar  
25 thickness and said back bar receptacle is depressed to a depth corresponding to said back bar thickness.

24. The tandem seat of claim 21, wherein said support arm has a support arm thickness and said support arm receptacle is depressed to a depth corresponding to said support arm thickness.